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LETTER DATED 17 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the communiqué of the sixth Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, held in Djibouti on 16 March 1998.

Please circulate the text of the communiqué as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Njuguna M. MAHUGU, OGW
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Communiqué of the sixth Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, held in Djibouti on 16 March 1998

1. At the invitation of President Hassan Gouled Aptidon of the Republic of Djibouti, President Daniel T. arap Moi of Kenya and current Chairman of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), President Isaias Afewerki of Eritrea, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, Vice-President Ali Othman Mohamed Taha of the Sudan and the Hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, representing President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda, met in Djibouti on 16 March 1998. Also participating in the Summit was the Executive Secretary of IGAD, Mr. Tekeste Ghebray.

2. The Summit reviewed the 1997 annual report of the IGAD secretariat and the planned activities for 1998, and also reviewed developments in the subregion since the last extraordinary summit held at Nairobi on 8 and 9 July 1997.

3. The Summit adopted the declaration of the seventeenth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of IGAD.

4. The Summit noted with concern that poor infrastructure is hampering development in the subregion. In this regard, partners in development are called upon to fulfil their commitments by expediting support to the development of infrastructure, in particular in roads and the telecommunication sub-sector.

5. The Summit recognized the importance of seeing tangible results in project implementation. Therefore, efforts should be made to ensure that at least a few projects are implemented, in particular in the sub-sectors of roads and water conservation, such as the construction of dams.

6. The Summit reaffirmed the need to continue to assist the Somali people in finding a peaceful solution to the conflict and further stressed that the ultimate responsibility for resolving the conflict rests with the Somali people. The IGAD member States and the international community can only facilitate that process.

7. The Summit noted that the proliferation of parallel initiatives can only undermine the central objective of accelerating the peace process in Somalia. In this respect, the Summit urged all concerned partners to bolster the IGAD peace process in Somalia and ensure that all assistance provided to Somalia is geared to enhancing the peace process and that it is channelled through the IGAD mechanism.

8. The Summit expressed its profound appreciation for the ongoing peace talks on the conflict in southern Sudan brokered by IGAD and underlined the importance of transparency, impartiality and unity of purpose within IGAD as the basis for the success of the peace process. Further, it cautioned against negative external influences detrimental to the peace process in southern Sudan and encouraged the parties to the conflict to work together towards a ceasefire so

as to provide a conducive environment for the next round of talks scheduled for April 1998 in Nairobi.

9. The Summit expressed its admiration to President Daniel T. arap Moi for his able leadership of IGAD for the past three years.

10. The Summit unanimously elected President Hassan Gouled Aptidon as the next Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of IGAD.

11. The Summit expressed its appreciation to President Hassan Gouled Aptidon, the Government and the people of the Republic of Djibouti for hosting the Summit and for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to the delegations.